

Message Text

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S/S - MR. GAMBLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 076271

EXDIS, VIENNA FOR LEDSKY, BUDAPEST FOR HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY

SUBJECT: CYPRIOT AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH CLARK CLIFFORD

1. AMBASSADOR DIMITRIOU MET APR 5 WITH PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE CLARK CLIFFORD TO REVIEW VIENNA CYPRUS TALKS AND NEXT STEPS. DIMITRIOU SAID HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS AND ADMITTED HE DID NOT HAVE LATEST INFORMATION BUT EXPRESSED VIEW THAT TURKISH-CYPRIOT CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSAL WAS UNWORKABLE AND THAT TURKS HAD NOT SHOWN SERIOUS DESIRE TO DISCUSS SUBSTANCE. HE THOUGHT US INTEREST AND GOOD OFFICES WOULD CONTINUE TO BE ESSENTIAL
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SINCE PARTIES THEMSELVES WOULD HAVE GRAVE DIFFICULTY REACHING AGREEMENT IF LEFT TO THEMSELVES.

2. CLIFFORD SAID THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN SURPRISED BY DEVELOPMENTS IN VIENNA. HE POINTED OUT THAT BOTH COMMUNITIES HAD PUT FORWARD CONCRETE DOCUMENTS AND THAT SOME DISCUSSION HAD TAKEN PLACE, PARTICULARLY DURING PAST TWO

DAYS. CLIFFORD PARTICULARLY STRESSED FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT FOR THE PARTIES TO REMAIN IN A PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION AND AVOID LENGTHY BREAKS; (B) HE HOPED THAT TALKS WOULD RESUME IN NICOSIA IF POSSIBLE APRIL 20 OR SOON THEREAFTER; (C) DESPITE POSSIBLE PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM ILLNESS OF ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS

AND UPCOMING TURKISH ELECTIONS THAT TALKS WOULD NOT BE BROKEN OFF; AND (D) THAT PARTIES WOULD CONTINUE TO NEGOTIATE ON BOTH TERRITORY AND CONSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE. WITH REGARD TO FUTURE US ROLE, CLIFFORD THOUGHT ADMINISTRATION WOULD WISH TO CONTINUE TO OFFER ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE AND SAID HE WOULD WELCOME SUGGESTIONS FROM ALL INTERESTED PARTIES ON HOW US COULD BEST BE HELPFUL. CLIFFORD SAID HE WAS PREPARED TO TAKE ACTIVE PERSONAL INTEREST, INCLUDING MAKING SECOND TRIP WHEN TIME WAS RIPE, BUT HE EXPECTED THAT WOULD NOT BE BEFORE TURKISH ELECTIONS.

3. CLIFFORD PARTICULARLY STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING MOMENTUM NOW THAT IMPETUS HAD BEEN PROVIDED FOR SUSTAINED NEGOTIATING PROCESS. HE RECOGNIZED ATMOSPHERE OF SUSPICION AND BITTERNESS COULD NOT BE QUICKLY CHANGED AND THAT GAP BETWEEN POSITIONS WAS WIDE. BUT AT LEAST THERE WERE NOW SPECIFIC PROPOSALS ON TABLE. COUNSELOR-DESIGNATE NIMETZ NOTED DETRIMENTAL EFFECT OF PUBLICITY AND URGED THAT REAL EFFORT BE MADE TO KEEP DISCUSSIONS AS CONFIDENTIAL AS POSSIBLE AND AVOID NEGATIVE CHARACTERIZATIONS OF OTHER SIDE'S POSITIONS.

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